

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 11861 161648Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /055 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINR, PINS, TGEN, TSPA, PROP, UR
SUBJECT: "NEDELYA" ARTICLE DISCREDITS U.S. DELEGATION
INTERPRETER MAMANTOV

1. DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE NOTED IN AUGUST 12 ENGLISH LANGUAGE
TASS WIRE A SUMMARY OF AUGUST 8-14 (NUMBER 32) "NEDELYA"
ARTICLE SMEARING AMCIT IL'YA ALEKSANDROVICH MAMANTOV.
MAMANTOV IS IDENTIFIED BY "NEDELYA" AN AN AMERICAN PROFESSOR
OF RUSSIAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE AT SOUTHERN METHODIST
UNIVERSITY WHO HAS VISITED THE SOVIET UNION FREQUENTLY AS
AN INTERPRETER FOR OFFICIAL US DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING
ASTRONAUTS DURING THE APOLLO-SUYUA PROJECT, AND AS THE
LEADER OF US STUDENT GROUPS. ASIDE FROM THE ITEMS HIGH-
LIGHTED IN THE TASS SUMMARY, THE FOLLOWING POINTS MADE IN
THE ARTICLE ARE OF INTEREST.

2. THE ARTICLE APPEARS TO BE WELL DOCUMENTED WITH DATES,
ADDRESSES AND EVEN PHOTOCOPIES OF A LETTER WRITTEN BY
SOVIET ENGINEER PYATETSKAYA TO THE KGB ABOUT MAMANTOV'S
SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR, AND A PICTURE OF MAMANTOV WITH A
GROUP IDENTIFIED AS "PRO-FASCIST "RUTENIYA' ORGANIZATION".

3. SECRA PARAGRAPHS ARE DEVOTED TO EXPOSING MAMANTOV'S
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 11861 161648Z

ALLEGED SHADY ASSOCIATIONS IN THE SOVIET UNION:

--ALICA TILLE: MUSCOVITE, LIVING IN A
"STRANGE" APARTMENT NEAR THE BIRD MARKET;
A PERSON WHO ASSOCIATES WITH SO-CALLED
/DISSIDENTS" AND OTHER UNDESIRABLES;

--NATAL'YA LETTER-KUSHNIR: AN AMERICAN INTERPRETER, DAUGHTER OF A WAR CRIMINAL AND FULL OF HATRED TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION; CAUGHT ON ONE OCCASION BY SOVIET CUSTOMS IN LENINGRAD ATTEMPTING TO IMPORT ANTI-SOVIET LITERATURE WHILE ON A TRIP WITH AN AMERICAN DELEGATION; ONE OF HER AMERICAN FRIENDS , "A CERTAIN SAVITSKIY", ALLEGEDLY SAID SHE WAS AN AGENT OF THE CIA.

4. MAMANTOV IS ALSO ACCUSED OF VARIOUS WRONGDOINGS WHILE IN THE USSR INCLUDING:

--DISSEMINATION OF PORNOGRAPHY THROUGH ILL-BEGOTTEN ACQUAINTANCES;

--TRADE ON THE BLACK MARKET (SALE OF AN EXPENSIVE CAMERA AND PURCHASES OF ICONS ARE MENTIONED);

--PROMISCUITY WITH A NUMBER OF WOMEN WHOSE NAMES THE AUTHOR OF THE ARTICLE, SERGEY GRIGOR'EV, CLAIMS TO HAVE ON FILE.

5. THE ARTICLE OUTLINES MAMANTOV'S BIOGRAPHY, FEATURING HIS ALLEGED CLOSE CONNECTIONS WITH ANTI-SOVIET ORGANIZATIONS IN EUROPE JUST AFTER THE WAR. IT CLAIMS THAT HE HAS VIOLATED THE RIGHTS OF HONEST SOVIET CITIZENS, EVEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 11861 161648Z

THOUGH IN CONNECTION WITH THE ANTI-SOVIET CAMPAIGN ON HUMAN RIGHTS HE POSES AS A HUMAN RIGHTS CHAMPION. THE PIECE CONCLUDES: "WE DO NOT ASSERT THAT DR. MAMANTOV IS A PAID AGENT OF THE CIA, BUT THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT HE IS CONNECTED WITH THE CIA".

6. COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST SOVIET "EXPOSE" IN RECENT MEMORY THAT MENTIONS US EXCHANGE DELEGATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH CHARGES OF SPYING. WHILE IT MAY BE INTENDED IN PART TO COUNTER CHARGES IN THE US MEDIA THAT SOVIET DELEGATIONS TO THE US FREQUENTLY ENGAGE IN ESPIONAGE, IT MAY ALSO REFLECT CONCERN AMONG SOVIET HARD-LINERS OVER US DELEGATIONS TO THE USSR. IT IS STRIKING THAT "NEDELYA" CHOSE TO IMPLICATE A PARTICIPANT IN THE APOLLO-SOYUZ PROJECT, WHICH WAS WIDELY AND POSITIVELY PUBLICIZED HERE.
TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, INTERPRETERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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Expiration:
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Format: TEL
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Subject: \"NEDELYA\" ARTICLE DISCREDITS U.S. DELEGATION INTERPRETER MAMANTOV
TAGS: PINR, PINS, TGEN, TSPA, PROP, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4dd7f759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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